

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**Department of Education**  
**120 State Street**  
**Montpelier, VT 05620-2501**

## **Vermont Receives National Grant for Serving Youth with Autism**

**MONTPELIER** – Vermont is one of the three states selected to participate in the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (NPDC on ASD) professional development project. This project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

Over a two-year period, the NPDC will collaborate with state personnel to develop a system of professional development and technical assistance to promote the use of evidence-based practices for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. At the end of the grant period, Vermont will have a team of new trainers who will be able to provide ongoing professional development statewide. This will enhance training capacity in the state.

According to Claire Bruno, autism consultant at the Department of Education, this moves forward efforts to bring training in evidence-based practices for children and youth with ASD to all areas of the state.

The NPDC on ASD is a multi-university partnership between the University of North Carolina, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of California at Davis Medical School. The Vermont project partners are the Vermont Department of Education, The Agency of Human Services and University of Vermont, Center on Disability and Community Inclusion.

The mission of the center is to provide resources, professional development and technical assistance that will increase the number of highly qualified personnel serving children and youth with autism spectrum disorders. Personnel from the University of Wisconsin-Madison will partner with Vermont as our primary contact.

This year Vermont joins Rhode Island and Idaho as the states selected for support from the NPDC. They will join the other nine states that are currently partnering with the center.

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